**St. Mary's Junior Boys' N.S.**

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**St. Flannan’s Street,**

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**Autumn Newsletter 2018**

Dear Parents,

 The month of September has just passed and we are glad to report that at this stage all children have settled well into school life.

**Some Developments to report on**

 ***1. Reading Eggs***:

A state of the art new Wi-Fi system was installed during the summer. IPads have also been bought. This has enabled the school to initiate a recognised educational programme called Reading Eggs.

Reading Eggs makes learning to read interesting and engaging for children with great on-line reading games and activities. It includes one-on-one lessons that match your child’s ability. The self-paced lessons teach phonics, sight words and essential reading skills needed for school. Bonus activities and lessons teach spelling vocabulary and comprehension skills in a fun way.

During the last month all Senior Infants and First class children have been tested and are working at their own level with the programme. Each child has his own password.

We are now sending home the password for all Senior Infants and First Class children which will enable you the parent to use the programme at home also. (See page attached to the Newsletter).

Junior Infant children have also been introduced to the programme and we will send home their password before the Hallowe’en break.

We are very excited about this initiative. Feedback from parents was very positive last year from our trial period and we look forward to your future support.

***2. Flag Day***:

We have had a very successful Flag Day. In total €1800.00 was collected.

We had a terrific response from parents/guardians/grandparents to help with the collection. We thank you most sincerely for this.

Also sincere thanks to the Parents Council members and Mrs. Walshe (Deputy Principal) for all their work in organising the event.

The money raised will be used to buy books for Guided Reading and Playground Equipment.

Our Parents’ Council are currently looking for new members and we would be grateful if you would get involved ( 4 to 5 meetings a year ). If interested please speak to Mrs. Slattery.

**P.T.O.**

***3. Co-Education in Nenagh:***

We would like to inform all parents that St. Mary’s Junior Boys, CBS Primary and Convent Primary schools were part of the talks for Co-Education in Nenagh which began over 2 years ago. These discussions had not reached a conclusion.

We now very much welcome the below retraction made by the B.O. M of the Convent Primary school which was printed in the Nenagh Guardian on the 19th September. All 3 schools will shortly re-engage in discussion for Co-Education in Nenagh. These talks will be facilitated by the Patron. Parents will be consulted prior to any final decisions being made.

**A Few Reminders**

**Junior Infant Children**

By Hallowe’en we ask parents of Junior Infant children to allow your child to walk independently from the school door to his own classroom.

**Labels**

Please ensure you label your child’s coat, jumper and tracksuit to ensure articles do not get mixed up.

**Body Piercing**

Body piercing and the wearing of earrings in not allowed in our school.

**Birthday Invitations**

Birthday invitations are not to be distributed by parents or children in the school building. This practice can cause upset to other children, so please make other arrangements.

**School Start Times**

Classes begin at 8.55am each morning. Please make sure your child is in school by this time.

**Healthy Lunches**

As the school day is short we encourage a healthy lunch i.e. a small sandwich, a piece of fruit and a drink of water. A small treat is allowed on Friday’s only. Please read our Healthy Eating Policy on the school website.

 Yours Sincerely

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 Principal

**Dates for your Calendar**

**Maths Week -** Monday 15th October – Friday 19th October

**County Photos -** Tuesday 16th October

County Photos will be in the school to take individual and class photographs of all children. Please make sure your child is in full school uniform (not tracksuit) and looking his/her best.

**Information Evening** **-**  Wednesday 24th October @ 7.30pm to 8.30pm

 (***Parents of Junior Infant children only***)

We would like all parents of **Junior Infant** children to attend this meeting.

**Mid-Term Break: -** School Closed – Friday 26th October (Polling Day)

School Re-opens – Monday 5th November.